



U. S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Washington

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Thursday, April 16, 2009	Thomas Rice, First Assistant U.S. Attorney (509) 353-2767

“FORMER PASCO, WASHINGTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN FRAUDULENT \$2.68 MILLION CONSUMER DEBT DISCHARGE PROGRAM

Over 1,260 victims from at least 19 states

Yakima – Today, James A. McDevitt, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, announced that Jason Paul Christensen, age 34, pleaded guilty to Mail Fraud and Money Laundering charges. In all, Jason Paul Christensen pleaded guilty to eight counts of mail fraud and eight counts of money laundering. Christensen remains in custody since his arrest in Southern, California in November 2008. A sentencing hearing is set for October 15, 2009.

According to the plea agreement, between approximately October 15, 2003 and December 31, 2005, Christensen solicited, via websites such as “NoMoreDebt.tv”, over \$2.68 million from “customers” located in Florida, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, Texas, Missouri, Wyoming, Kentucky, Idaho, Ohio, South Dakota, Montana, New York, Hawaii, Washington, Nevada, Georgia, Louisiana, Oregon and Minnesota. Christensen operated businesses accessible through the internet and through a post office box in Richland, Washington which were known at various times as: OmniScience Consulting; Contended Services, Inc.; Family Financial Network, Inc.; Controlled Options, Inc.; Inertia International; and The Alliance, Inc.

Among the materially false representations which caused customers to use the consumer debt discharge program, Christensen promised to discharge consumer debts, such as boat and car loans, and that his company employed a team of “federal attorneys” who used loopholes in the law to lawfully discharge consumer debts. Christensen promised his customers that their debts would be discharged in return for an advance fee to his company in amounts ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,970, and that the loan discharge program was “100% successful”. Instead of performing as promised, however, Christensen took the “customer” money for his own personal use and to promote his scheme, and did not discharge the victims’ debts as promised.

Christensen paid commissions to “consultants”, who lived in various locations throughout the United States, to recruit new “customers” into his debt discharge program. Christensen recruited his “consultants” by initially accepting them as “customers” into his debt discharge program, paying off their debts with funds obtained from other “customers”, and falsely stating that their loans had been discharged through the discharge program. These “consultants”, who received payments from new “customers”, were located in Sidney, New York; Duluth, Minnesota; Medford, Oregon; Little Rock, Arkansas; Montague, California; Coshocton, Ohio; Rozet, Wyoming; Salem, Oregon; Kihei, Hawaii; Ashland, Oregon; Branson West, Missouri; Thornton, Colorado; Richland, Washington; Monroe, Louisiana and elsewhere. Once received by the “consultants”, the payments were then mailed to Christenson and his business in Eastern Washington.

Christensen temporarily appeased concerned “customers”, whose loans were not paid in the time period promised for the discharge, by mailing company letters which indicated that the program took up to one year or longer to fully discharge the debt and advising them to continue making their payments to their lenders in the interim.

Christensen faces a maximum term of twenty years imprisonment for each of the mail fraud and money laundering counts. The charges also carry maximum fines of \$500,000 for money laundering and \$250,000 for mail fraud, along with a 3-year term of court supervision after release, and restitution. Christensen has agreed to be subject to an order of restitution of no less than \$2 million.

This investigation was conducted by the United States Secret Service and the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation. This case is being prosecuted by K. Jill Bolton, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington.

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